

From:
To:
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(b) (6)
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FOIA work for this week:
Friday, January 4, 2019 5:19:00 PM

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The FOIA staff is short-staffed two staff due to the furlough – (b) (6) and (b) (6) – both of whom have been working on the calendars litigation.

There were also a number of FOIA staff (FTE and contractors) that have been out due to leave. Two staff – (b) (6) and (b) (6) are scheduled to come back from leave next week, so by Wednesday 1/9/2018 everyone (FTEs and contractors) are scheduled to be back (b) (6) and (b) (6) depending on the continuation of the furlough as discussed above).

FOIA & Transparency closed 9 cases this week and logged in 17 cases. Closures are hampered by us needing to clear closures with program offices when they involve those office's equities (many of whose POC's are out on furlough) and due to furloughs in decentralized offices that out-process and close their own FOIA cases (OFAC, IG). The final numbers will be on the weekly report that will be sent out on Monday. The stats for the contractors will be sent by (b) (6) – the contractor team lead. Typically they go out Tuesday or Wednesday.

FOIA & Transparency sent out about 10 communications regarding tasking \ case work with DO program offices. Many offices FOIA POCs are out due to furlough.

(b) (6) continues to contact bureaus and program offices regarding the data call for the 2019 Chief FOIA Officer report we are preparing. We have received responses from five out of eight tasked bureaus and a few program offices. Our efforts have been hampered due to the furlough and folks being out for the holidays. The official due date for providing the draft Chief FOIA Officer Report to DOJ\OIP is January 18, 2019 – but we should have no issue to get an extension as OIP is busy reviewing the more complex and data intensive annual FY18 FOIA annual reports (they still haven't gotten back to us regarding our submission) and DOJ who would be doing the review being effected by the furlough (they should be cognizant of the strain put on FOIA offices by the furlough). The key will be to post the annual and Chief FOIA Officer reports by Sunshine week (yearly celebration of openness and transparency) in mid-March.

Let me know if there are any other details/stats that you are interested in and hope you are enjoying your weekend! (b) (6)